



City of Seattle  
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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November 22, 2004  
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### City secures wind-power program through 2020 *“Moving forward on key environmental goal,” says Mayor Nickels*

SEATTLE- Seattle will be assured of acquiring wind-generated energy through 2020, thanks to an ordinance proposed by Mayor Greg Nickels and passed today by the Seattle City Council.

In 2001, Seattle City Light entered into a 20-year agreement to purchase wind power from the Stateline Wind Project near Walla Walla. But at that time, because of uncertainty around regional transmission, the utility was able to secure only a 10-year agreement for delivery of the power. The new legislation secures delivery for the full 20 years.

“City Light customers have a clear expectation that they will get the energy they need and the environment they want,” said Nickels. “That’s why Seattle has pledged to continue to develop and implement strong environmental practices. City Light’s leadership in renewable resources, conservation and salmon stewardship are delivering on that promise.”

City Light market research consistently shows that clean energy is a priority for the utility’s customers. In fact, almost 4,500 customers are participating in the Seattle Green Power Program and pay a premium above regular rates to support the development of new renewable resources.

Seattle’s contract with Stateline provides 175 megawatts of wind generating capacity, which produces an average of 54 megawatts per year. That’s enough to power about 45,000 Seattle homes.

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Jean Godden, chair of the Energy and Environmental Policy Committee, led the legislation in the City Council.

“By council resolution, City Light must meet all new electricity demand through 2011 with conservation and renewable resources,” said Godden. “I’m very pleased that City Light is well ahead of the pace necessary to meet that goal. The new wind transmission contract means that clean wind energy will continue to be an important resource for us well into the future.”

City Light will purchase the transmission rights from PacifiCorp. City Light staff reviewed several options before selecting the option they considered would minimize risks and costs as much as possible.

The full cost of the transmission is \$2.3 million per year. City Light can defer the full cost for up to five years by paying \$212,000. If another entity requests the transmission rights, however, City Light would have to begin paying the full amount. But with other wind projects proposed for the Walla Walla area, City Light will quite likely be able to sell these transmission services until needed, resulting in a zero net cost for the utility.

Existing utility finances are expected to cover the costs, and rates will not go up as a result of the transmission contract.

For more information about City Light’s renewable resources and other environmental initiatives, go to <http://www.seattle.gov/light/environment/>.

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